

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A computer system comprising:
 - 2 a CPU;
 - 3 a main memory array;
 - 4 a first bus bridge coupling the CPU and main memory array;
 - 5 a primary expansion bus;
 - 6 a secondary expansion bus;
 - 7 a second bus bridge coupling the primary and secondary expansion bus;
 - 8 a read only memory (ROM) coupled to the secondary expansion bus, where the ROM
 - 9 stores a first set of basic input output system (BIOS) programs, and further where the ROM stores
 - 10 a first set of operating system drivers; and
 - 11 wherein at least one operating system driver of the first set of operating system drivers is
 - 12 read from the ROM during installation of an operating system for the computer system.
- 1 2. The computer system as defined claim 1 wherein the ROM further comprises:
 - 2 said first set of BIOS programs associated with the first set of operating system drivers;
 - 3 a second set of BIOS programs; and
 - 4 a second set of the of the operating system drivers associated with the second set of BIOS
 - 5 programs.
- 1 3. The computer system as defined in claim 2 wherein the first and second sets of BIOS
- 2 programs are substantially identical.

1 4. The computer system as defined in claim 2 wherein the first and second sets of operating
2 system drivers are substantially identical.

1 5. The computer system as defined in claim 2 wherein the ROM further comprises an
2 electrically erasable programmable read only memory.

1 6. The computer system as defined in claim 1 wherein the ROM further comprises:
2 a redundant portion;
3 a non-redundant portion;
4 wherein the redundant portion of the ROM stores the first set of BIOS programs and a
5 second set of BIOS programs; and
6 wherein the non-redundant portion of the ROM stores the first set of operating system
7 drivers.

1 7. The computer system as defined in claim 6 wherein the first and second set of BIOS
2 programs are substantially identical.

1 8. The computer system as defined in claim 6 wherein the ROM further comprises an
2 electrically erasable programmable read only memory.

1 9. The computer system as defined in claim 1 further comprising:
2 wherein the ROM further comprises an electrically erasable programmable read only
3 memory (EEPROM); and
4 wherein the EEPROM stores two substantially identical copies of the BIOS programs after
5 installation of the operating system.

1 10. In a computer system a having read only memory (ROM), a method of storing hardware
2 drivers to be installed during installation of an operating system, the method comprising:
3 storing in the ROM device a basic input output system (BIOS) program; and
4 storing in the ROM the hardware drivers.

5 11. The method of storing hardware drivers as defined in claim 10 further comprising:
6 dividing the ROM into a redundant and non-redundant portions;
7 storing the BIOS program in the redundant portion of the ROM;
8 storing a second BIOS program in the redundant portion of the ROM; and
9 storing the hardware drivers in the non-redundant portion of the ROM.

1 12. The method of storing hardware drivers as defined in claim 11 wherein the BIOS program
2 and the second BIOS program are substantially the same.

1 13. The method of storing hardware drivers as defined in claim 10 further comprising:
2 storing a first copy of the BIOS program in the ROM;

3 storing a first copy the hardware drivers in the ROM associated with the first copy of the
4 BIOS program;
5 storing a second copy of the BIOS program in the ROM; and
6 storing a second copy of the hardware drivers in the ROM associated with the second copy
7 of the BIOS program.

1 14. The method of storing hardware drivers as defined in claim 10 further comprising:
2 storing the BIOS program being a first BIOS program in the ROM, the ROM being an
3 electrically erasable programmable read only memory (EEPROM);
4 storing the hardware drivers in the EEPROM;
5 copying one or more hardware drivers from the EEPROM;
6 erasing the hardware drivers from the EEPROM after the one or more hardware drivers
7 have been copied; and
8 flashing a second BIOS program to the EEPROM in place of the hardware drivers.

1 15. The method of storing hardware drivers as defined in claim 14 wherein the second BIOS
2 program is substantially the same as the first BIOS program.

1 16. In a computer system having a read only memory (ROM) device storing basic input output
2 system (BIOS) programs, a method of installing an operating system requiring an operating system
3 driver on the computer system comprising:
4 supplying the operating system driver during the installation of the operating system by
5 copying the operating system driver from the ROM device.

1 17. The method of installing an operating system requiring an operating system driver as
2 defined in claim 16 further comprising supplying the operating system driver from the ROM being
3 an electrically erasable programmable read only memory.

1 18. A computer system comprising:
2 a microprocessor;
3 a main memory array;
4 a first bus bridge coupling the microprocessor and main memory array;
5 a primary expansion bus;
6 a secondary expansion bus;
7 a second bus bridge coupling the primary and secondary expansion bus;
8 a read only memory (ROM) coupled to the secondary expansion bus; and
9 wherein the ROM further comprises:
10 a redundant portion;
11 a non-redundant portion;
12 wherein the redundant portion of the ROM stores the first set and a second set of
13 BIOS programs; and
14 wherein the non-redundant portion of the ROM stores the operating system drivers;
15 wherein at least one of the operating system drivers is read from the ROM during
16 installation of an operating system for the computer system.

1 19. The computer system as defined in claim 18 wherein the first and second sets of BIOS
2 programs are substantially the same.

1 20. The computer system as defined in claim 19 wherein the ROM further comprises an
2 electrically erasable programmable read only memory.

1 21. In a computer system having an electrically erasable programmable read only memory
2 (EEPROM) coupled to a bridge logic device, a method of storing operating system drivers for use
3 during installation of an operating system, the method comprising:

4 dividing the EEPROM into a redundant and non-redundant portions;
5 storing in the redundant portion of the EEPROM a first set of basic input output system
6 (BIOS) programs and a second set of BIOS programs; and
7 storing in the non-redundant portion of the EEPROM the operating system drivers.

8 22. The method of storing operating system drivers as defined in claim 21 wherein the first set
2 of BIOS programs and the second set of BIOS programs are substantially the same.